

# NEWS

## COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

William V. Roth Jr., Chairman

August 9, 1983

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 10 1983	
FBI - WASH DC	

ROTH, THREE OTHER SENATORS ORGANIZE FEDERAL PENSION STUDY

Washington--Three nonpartisan, independent agencies will conduct a comprehensive study of federal retirement issues, Senator William V. Roth, Jr., R-Del., announced today.

Roth, Chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the federal pension program, was joined by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Post Office, Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and the Ranking Minority Members of the full Committee and subcommittee, Senators Thomas Eagleton, D-Mo., and Jeff Bingaman, D-N.Mex., in organizing the study.

The four Senators sent a letter directing the General Accounting Office, the Congressional Budget Office, and the Congressional Research Service to undertake a coordinated effort to gather actuarial and economic data for the Committee to use in formulating policy alternatives.

"The cooperative efforts of these three agencies is unprecedented and reflects the importance of good information on costs and private and public sector plans," Roth said.

"We want to put all the facts in front of Congress," he added. "The General Accounting Office is being asked to collect and analyze a broad range of data on pension and compensation practices of 1,500 private sector companies. The Congressional Research Service will help construct and evaluate alternative pension plan models, and the Congressional Budget Office will apply a price tag.

"The federal pension system and the employees it protects are too important to undertake anything less than a comprehensive study," Roth said. "I want to emphasize that we are not involved in pre-judging or ready-made conclusions. We expect full participation by employees, employee groups, business leaders, and pension experts as the process continues."

(more)

"With mandated coverage of new federal employees under Social Security beginning in 1984, it is important that we work in a bipartisan and systematic fashion to gather useful information on current private sector pension practices," Roth said. "This has never been done before, and it will definitely help the Committee and the Congress look at alternatives. I am particularly pleased that three nonpartisan federal agencies will be assisting us in the herculean task of compiling data and comparative information."

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